



# Town of Southern Shores

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Resolution 2010-03-02

## **RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE AND CAPE LOOKOUT NATIONAL SEASHORE INTO A NATIONAL MARINE PROTECTION AREA (MPA)**

**WHEREAS**, the Dare County Board of Commissioners, acting on advice and recommendation from the North Carolina Watermen United, has reviewed the proposed inclusion of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Cape Lookout National Seashore into a National Marine Protection Area (MP); and

**WHEREAS**, National Marine Protection Areas are delineated areas in the oceans, estuaries and coasts with a higher level of protection than prevails in the surround waters; and

**WHEREAS**, National Marine Protection Areas use a classification system that focuses on five key functional characteristics; Conservation Focus, Level of Protection Afforded, Permanence of Protection, Constancy of Protection and Ecological Scale of Protection; and

**WHEREAS**, the current National Marine Protection Areas nomination is unclear on the level of protection sought for Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout National Seashores in regards to No Fishing, No Take and No Access clauses which further prohibit or restrict commercial or recreational fishing; and

**WHEREAS**, the creation of No Fishing, No Take and No Access clauses within the National Marine Protection Area would cause severe adverse effects on Dare County, its citizens and visitors both economically and culturally; and

**WHEREAS**, the clauses of No Fishing, No Take and No Access are in direct conflict with the stated goal of the National Parks Service nomination which is protecting the natural Heritage of both Cape Lookout and Cape Hatteras National Seashores as much of Dare County heritage is engrossed in commercial and recreational fishing; and

**WHEREAS**, inclusion of Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Cape Lookout National Seashore into a National Marine Protection Area will be devastating to the Commercial and Recreational Fishing Industry of Dare County and Coastal North Carolina, thus placing an undue hardship on the Dare County economy especially in the Tourism, Service and Retail sectors as related to the for-hire commercial charter vessels, commercial and recreational fishing industry; and

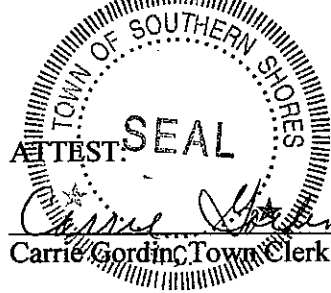
**WHEREAS**, existing Federal and State laws and regulations from agencies such as the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the United States Fish and Wildlife Department and the South Atlantic Marine Fisheries Commission already regulate the levels of activities along Cape Hatteras National Seashore and any further regulations under the proposed National Marine Protection Areas would be burdensome and further bring undue economic hardship to Dare County, it's citizens and visitors.

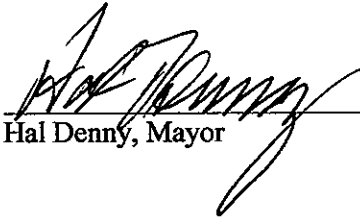
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of the Town of Southern Shores requests that the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Interior along with the National Marine Protection Area Commission consider and study the economic impacts to Dare County and the State of North Carolina in regards to the inclusion of Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Cape Lookout National Seashore into the National Marine Protection Area; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of the Town of Southern Shores strongly opposes any additional regulations or prohibitions including any No Fishing, No Take and No Access clauses associated with the proposed National Marine Protection Area; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution will be transmitted to the United States Congressional members representing Dare County and Coastal North Carolina, the United States Senators representing North Carolina, the United States Secretary of Interior and the United States Secretary of Commerce.

This the 2nd day of March, 2010



  
Hal Denny, Mayor